

SENATE BILL 981  
By Bryson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 50,  
Chapter 6, Part 4, relative to prompt payment of  
workers compensation health insurance claims.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 50, Chapter 6, Part 4, is amended by  
adding the following as a new section:

50-6-421

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this part or of title 56 to the contrary, in order to assure that health care providers are treated fairly and to assure that health claims submitted for payment by participating health care providers licensed under title 63 or title 68 are handled in an appropriate and uniform manner, the commissioner of labor and workforce development shall set standards by rule governing the prompt payment of workers' compensation health claims by insurance carriers and self-insured employers. Such standards should, to the extent possible, follow the standards set in title 56 for timely reimbursement of health insurance claims governing the time frames by which the party responsible for the health care costs shall:

(1) Pay the claim if it is a clean claim as defined in, Section 56-7-109;

(2) Notify the provider within a certain time frame why the claim is not a clean claim and what additional information is required for processing and payment.

(b) The commissioner shall promulgate rules relative to the processing of the payment of health care claims for providers and to contend with an entity that does not comply with this section. Such rules shall permit the commissioner to assess a civil

penalty equal to twenty-five percent (25%) of the unpaid or untimely paid benefits owed to a health care provider under the workers' compensation law when the commissioner determines that the unpaid or untimely paid benefits were appropriately owed to the health care provider but either not paid or paid late. Such assessments should be conducted and can be appealed under the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.